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Good morning Senator Duff, Representative Janowski, Senator Kane, Representative Buck-Taylor, and members of the legislature's Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations. My name is Elizabeth Ritter and I am both honored and humbled to be here today as Governor Malloy's nominee for Commissioner of the State Department on Aging. While I am not an unfamiliar face to many of you, I would like to discuss a few things about myself, my experience, and the things I find most exciting about this opportunity to continue to serve the people of the State of Connecticut.

My husband and I bought our home in Quaker Hill in 1986, when we decided we wanted to raise our children in Connecticut. We moved around a bit after we married and wanted to settle in a community where we could depend on good public education and a supportive community, and we found both those things in Waterford. We have never regretted our decision.

You will see from my resume that I spent 13 years working at the Town of Waterford in a variety of capacities, finishing up with 7 years as their Municipal Tax Collector. While I enjoyed and valued my previous career working in healthcare as an accountant and financial manager, I found public service to be enormously rewarding. I tell you this because it is the foundation for my desire to continue to work with the public and my conviction that this work is necessary and important for our communities. From my perspective at the municipal level, I gained an appreciation and understanding of the responsibilities of the state and our cities and towns to create and follow sound policies to build and share our resources in ways that provide necessary services for our residents as efficiently, as locally, and as personally as possible.

I spent the following 10 years as the State Representative from the Towns of Waterford and Montville. My legislative focus included healthcare quality and delivery, access to services, home and community based services, and the associated protections for our vulnerable residents as they raise families and live in our state. I gained an understanding and appreciation of the need to negotiate complexities and exercise compassion and the critical importance of doing everything possible to empower our residents to exercise their choices in making life's decisions. My experience, I believe, will be an asset to the State Department on Aging.



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The Department's mission is to empower older adults to live full independent lives, and to provide leadership on aging issues on behalf of older adults, families, caregivers, and advocates. This mission demands the dignity and respect for our elders that comes from strong communities, effective advocacy, and compassion. It presents challenges to our state in these immediate times and for generations to come.

I am honored to have been nominated to lead the Department at this time; and if given the opportunity to do so, I am committed to work toward this mission to the best of my ability.



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